

as a Western reading text with precise local Indian reference-mind touchstones ..... precisely so precise a set of references - but I kept being reminded by the swiftness and sexual honesty of imagery of the fresh mind of poet....."

[FROM A LETTER WRITTEN TO DR. SUMATHEENDRA NADIG, 10TH SEPTEMBER 1972]

NISSIM EZEKIEL wrote in "POETRY INDIA" that Adiga is "widely regarded as the greatest Indian poet of the Twentieth century, writing in Kannada " [1965]

L.S.SESHAGIRI RAO writes : "Adiga is one of the significant poets of this half century. He has not only written first rate poetry but compelled fellow writers and readers to think seriously about literature and its relevance in modern times ; he has also stimulated a number of younger creative writers ..... Adiga influenced not only poetry but also the novel and the short story. The influence he exercised by his clear, sharp and stimulating critical writings about literature must be recognised".

[A HISTORY OF KANNADA LITERATURE 1983]

Dr.SHANTINATH K. DESAI writes : "Kannada Navya kavya found its authentic pioneer and leader in Gopala Krishna Adiga, and this was indeed a fortunate phenomenon. Adiga's rebellion against the Romantic tradition was total, because it was



## SOME EMINENT MEN ON ADIGA

Gopala Krishna Adiga, in the opinion of some major poets, deserves the Nobel prize for literature. His work, they say, has an enduring style and clarity of thought that is rare in Indian poetry. The kannada poet may have been overlooked by the Swedish Academy of letters, but he has just won the nation's highest honour for verse, the *KABIR SAMMAN* instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government this year.

[ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY, P 47, APRIL 12-18, 1987]

ADIL JUSSAWALA writes : *Gopala Krishna Adiga* : Born in 1918. Regarded as India's greatest living poet by his admirers, there is mounting evidence in the English and Indian language translations of his work to suggest this is so. The early Marxist phase of his poetry was abandoned for a more subjective exploration of the individual and his place in society ..... Propelled by a kind of whitmanesque energy, his poems are able to suggest transcendental levels of experience while remaining robust and of the earth.

[NEW WRITING IN INDIA (PENGUIN)]

ALLEN GINSBERG, the famous American poet writes : "Adiga's poems show mobility of mind and modernity of means - they look as live and mentally aware as any contemporary Indian poetry in translation I've read - translation (yours) seem okay - sitting at desk reading I realised myself definitely



against himself, against his youth spent in dreams and idealistic illusions. As a young man he was one of the important romantic poets, though it is possible to discover even in his early poetry a kind of genuineness and struggle for individuality, a certain amount of iron in his soul, that helped him to outgrow his former romantic self. Once he broke with the past, he went ahead with a kind of inconoclastic fury and creative passion developing from poem to poem, exploring and conquering new areas of experience with a new idiom which he has never ceased experimenting with. In Adiga a new sensibility was married to a new idiom, both of which admitted complexity and inclusiveness of experience ..... philosophic depth, high emotional pressure, complexity of experience - all held together in a poetic tension, which has at its command almost all the resources of language : these have given him the central position in modern poetry ..... Adiga has had tremendous influence on the younger generation poets, but this influence has always been liberating and creative".

[ INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN POETRY TODAY VOL II PUBLISHED BY INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS, 1976]

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA writes : "M. Gopala Krishna Adiga is perhaps India's greatest living poet writing in Kannada, and has won the country's highest literary awards".

[ CHANDRABHAGA NUMBER 4 / WINTER 1980]



April 2, 1974

Press Release - Mr. Coltrane  
Eagle Eye

Gopalakrishna Adiga, the distinguished Indian poet, will read from his poems and discuss the poetry of India at 1:00 p.m., Monday, April 8, in room 106 of Raub Hall on the Lock Haven State College campus. His appearance is being sponsored as a part of the program on the Literature of the Commonwealth of English of the LHSC Department of English and Philosophy.

Mr. Gopalakrishna Adiga is the greatest living Kannada poet and deserves International recognition. The problems involved in the translation of poetry have been the primary reason for his remaining largely unknown in the west. His coming visit, it is hoped, will create a lively interest in his poetic achievement.

Mr. Adiga has had a varied and distinguished career as poet, critic, teacher and editor. He even ran for a parliamentary seat in 1971 as a candidate of conscience in a society of corruption and complacency. At the present time he is a visiting scholar at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies at Simla, India.

The best way of describing Mr. Adiga's poetry is to say that it is at the most conscious point of India's cultural and political experience. His images project India's paradoxes and pains with sensitivity. His thought reveals the crucial elements of India's predicament as a culture, torn between her glorious past and uncertain future, between being and doing. His themes have to do with the synthesis of the best from the east and the west that Indians are in a unique position to achieve. They dramatize the terrors and tendernesses of tradition and progress. However, Mr. Adiga is essentially spiritual in his vision. His poetry reveals man's desperate need for grace that can transform human energy into creative power.

All interested persons are invited to attend Mr. Adiga's presentation.







## free admission

RATB HALL 106

1:00 PM

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Sponsored by the Department of English and Philosophy.

M. G. Krishna Murthy

M. Gopalakrishna Adiga

Do something, brother;  
Something, anything;  
You mustn't be idle.  
Pull out this plant, rip this  
cucumber that flower.  
There's grass, turn  
your faggots through.  
Butterflies, parrots, sparrows  
hold them, cage them, pull  
their wings and pull their fur  
there in the garden grow, for  
elephant's feet,

It is a fact of India's recent literary history that Gopalakrishna Adiga has been a potent influence on a whole generation of Kannada writers. It is also a fact that this influence has been a liberating one; the poems of our younger writers bear testimony to this.

The image is a collage of various poems and words arranged on a light-colored background. At the top, there is a poem by William Blake:

Butterflies, bats, sparrows—chase  
your faggots through.  
There's grass, run  
crunch that flower.  
Pull out this plant, rip this little leaf,  
You mustn't be idle.  
Do something, brother;  
something, anything;

Below this, the word "ADIGA" is written in large, bold, black letters, enclosed within a jagged, cloud-like outline.

Further down, the word "Gopalakrishna" is written in large, bold, black letters, also enclosed within a similar jagged outline.

At the bottom, the word "POETRY" is written in large, bold, black letters. To its right, the word "INDIA" is partially visible. To the left of "POETRY", the word "of" is written in a smaller, bold, black font.